# CLIFF LAKE TIMBER SALE

May 19, 2008 Land Board

## Location of Sale:

- Kalispell Unit (NWLO) Located approximately 10 miles northwest of Kalispell, Montana.
- Flathead County Sections 29, 30, 31, & 32, T30N-R22W
- Trust Distribution 34% MSU Income, 5.5% Western Income, 5.5% Eastern Income, 13% Deaf & Blind Permanent, 2% Public Buildings, 40% Montana Tech Income.
- This sale is in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

#### Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 22,060 tons (3,320 MBF) with an estimated minimum value of \$331,121.00 or \$15.01/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$4.14/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.64 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

### Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale would consist of 3 separate harvest units totaling 472 acres.
- Intermediate thinning treatments would occur on 332 acres. A shelterwood harvest would occur on the remaining 140 acres to promote the regeneration and establishment of western larch.
- Harvest treatments focus on meeting biodiversity objectives and improving the current and future productivity of forest stands in the project area.
- This sale contains no old growth.

#### Harvest Systems:

100% tractor

#### Roads:

- Approximately 0.75 miles of new road construction is needed.
- Approximately 6 miles of existing roads would be maintained and/or reconstructed to meet current Best Management Practices (BMP's).
- Approximately 0.35 miles of existing roads would be closed and abandoned.
- All roads that DNRC has control over will be closed to limit illegal motorized use, promote wildlife security, limit the spread of noxious weeds and reduce illegal harvesting of wood products. County roads and roads with permanent easements would remain open.

#### **Public Involvement:**

Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the Daily Interlake. Letters were also sent to interested parties. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies helped identify the issues. The identified issues were vegetation, soil productivity, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

# Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations

**Soils** – The harvesting of timber, construction of new roads, and improvement of existing roads would have no expected impacts on slope stability and minimal impacts on soils in the project area. New roads would be built to current BMP standards. Existing roads would also be brought up to current BMP standards. Harvest activities would occur when soil conditions allow.

**Water Quality -** Water yield would not increase and Lore Lake would not be affected due to the design and location of cutting unit boundaries. Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) guidelines would be followed pursuant to the water quality permits secured from other agencies.

**Vegetation** – The overall health and vigor of the treated stands would improve with the removal of trees that are at high risk to bark beetle attack. In addition, the health and vigor of the remaining trees would improve with increased crown spacing. Harvest activities would promote appropriate age class and species distribution. Integrated weed management measures such as washing equipment prior to use, grass seeding disturbed areas, and spraying existing weed areas, are designed to control the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

**Wildlife Habitat** – At least 2 snags per acre and 2 snag recruits per acre would be retained in all harvest units for cavity nesters and coarse woody debris recruitment. Whitetail deer cover considerations along with other wildlife mitigation measures have been incorporated into the sale design.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Cliff Lake Timber Sale.



